No. 3
CURSE OF THE
SPAWN
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# CURSE OF THE SPAWN™

TODD McFARLANE &
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## "CORPSE CANDLES"

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DEDICATED TO :
SHANNON CRYSTAL TOMAS

FOR IMAGE COMICS™
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Executive Director

Summary: Curse of The Spawn #2

Memory flashes of Daniel Lianso's past reveal few clues to his present situation as this future's Hellspawn. Madrid, frightened by witnessing the Hellspawn kill the Dessicator, turns her spinner on him and fires while Matthew nearly recognizes him as his uncle. As they flee the area, they battle the Nightmares and manage to commandeer an Armored Personnel Carrier. Meanwhile, as the Hellspawn recovers from the blast, the demon Abbadon gives him a genocidal mission. Elsewhere, the Anti-Pope visits the Nu-Vatican antechambers where he disembowels a prisoner named Abel and then cruelly "baptizes" him with transformative results.

CURSE OF THE SPAWN #3, November 1996. First Printing. Published by IMAGE COMICS 1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92635. $1.95/$2.80 in Canada. Spawn®, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks 1996 of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are Trademark™ and Copyright© 1996 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane. PRINTED IN CANADA.

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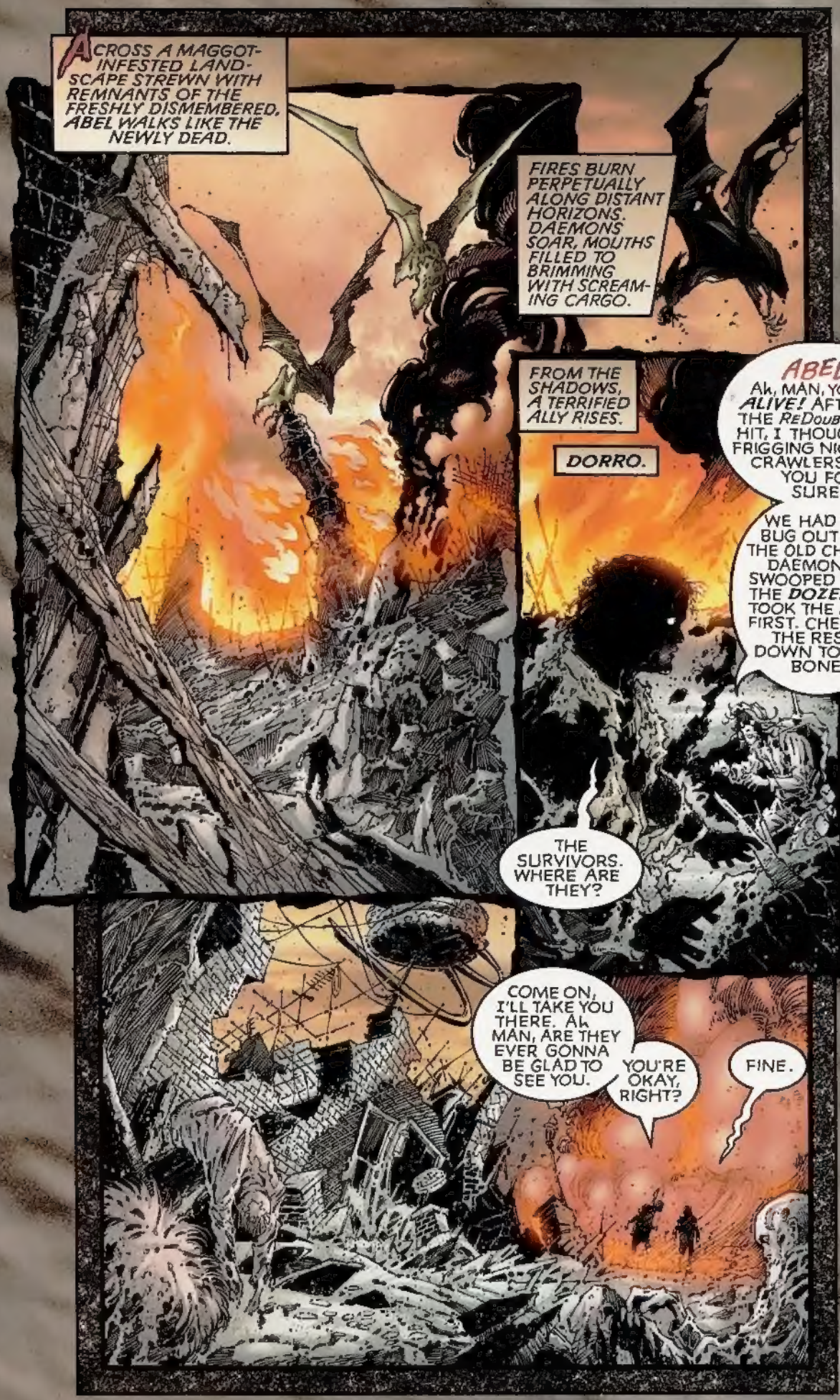
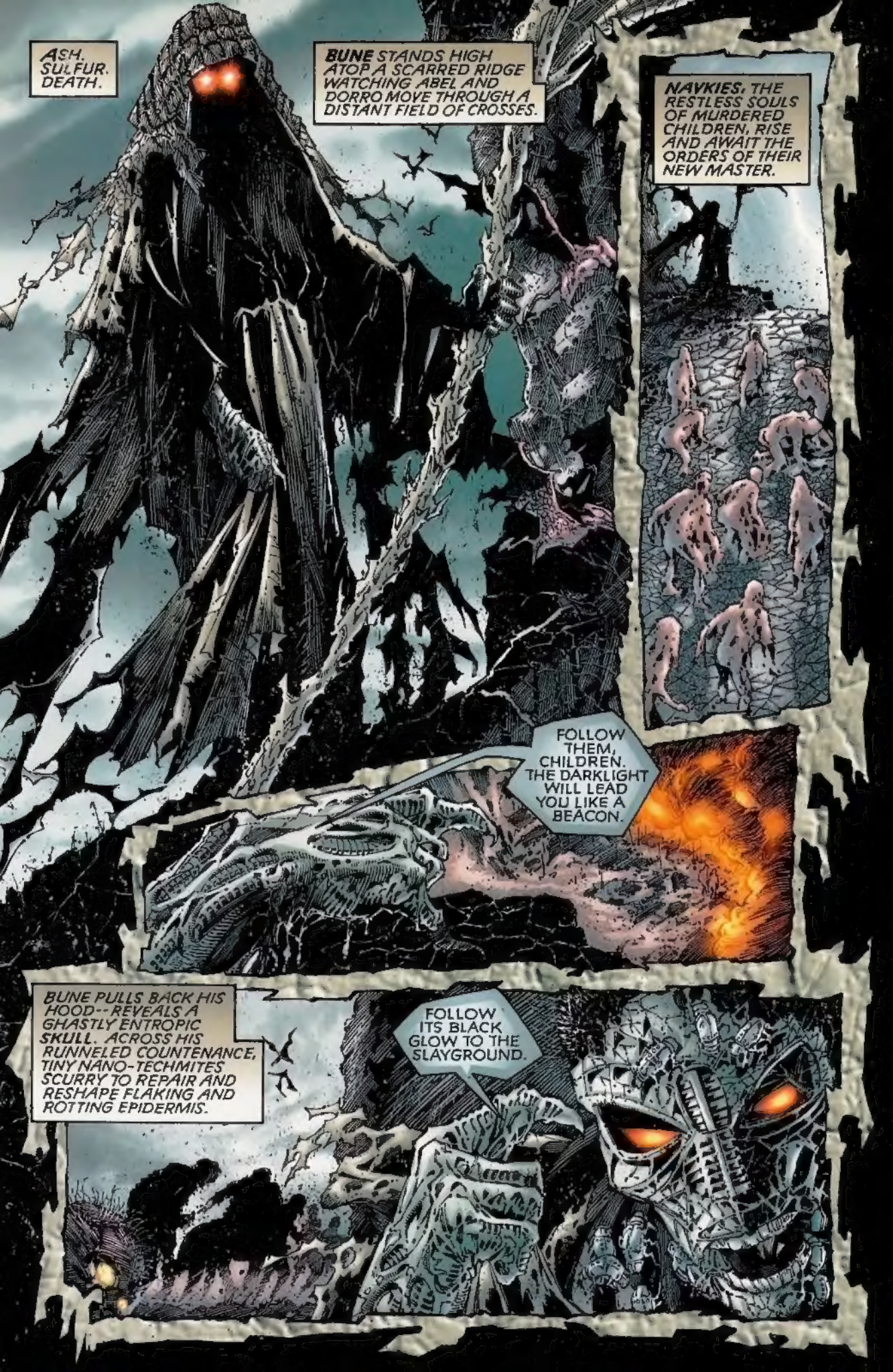
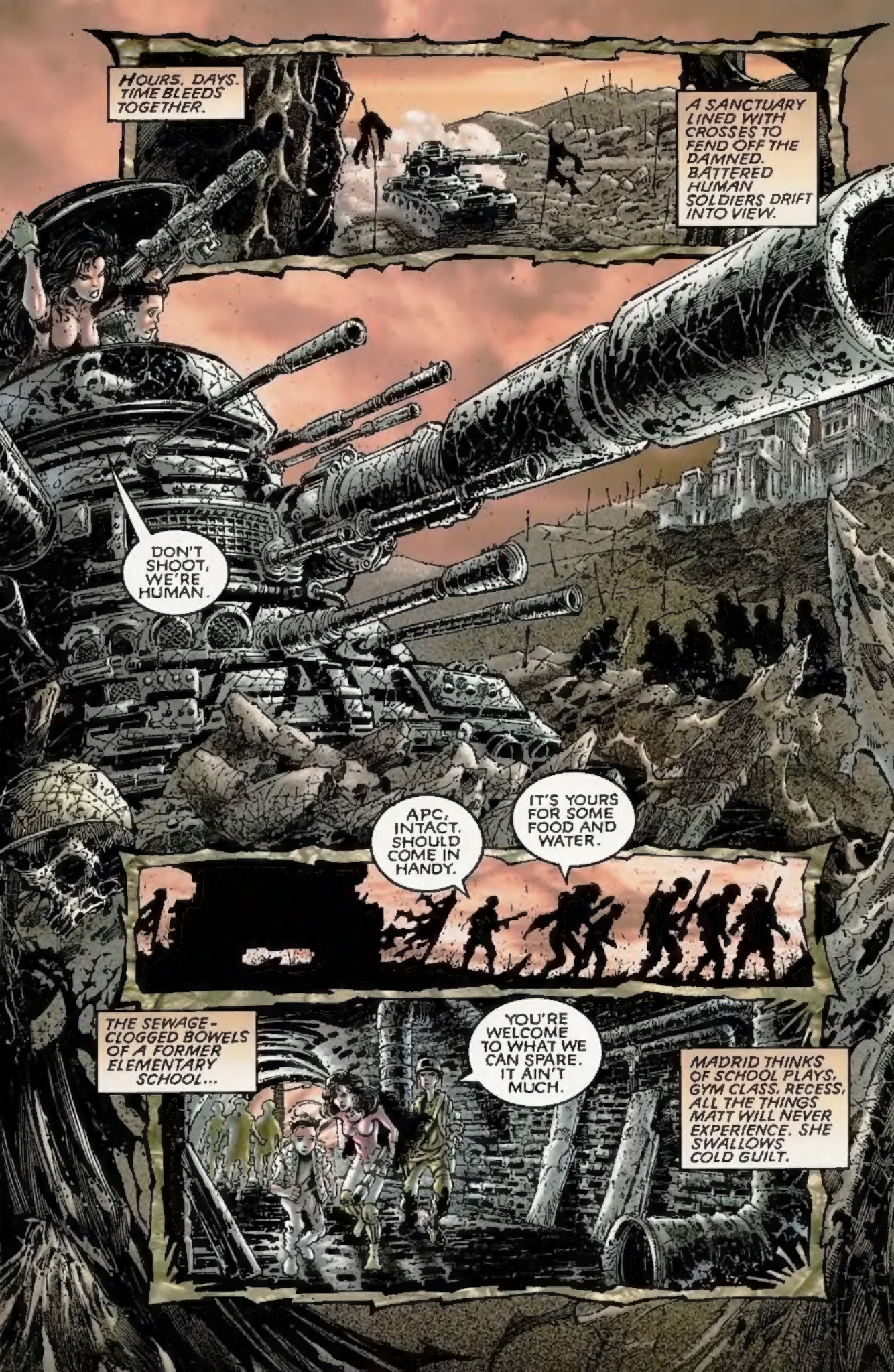

ACROSS A MAGGOT-INFESTED LANDSCAPE STREWN WITH REMNANTS OF THE FRESHLY DISMEMBERED, ABEL WALKS LIKE THE NEWLY DEAD.
FIRES BURN PERPETUALLY ALONG DISTANT HORIZONS. DAEMONS SOAR, MOUTHS FILLED TO BRIMMING WITH SCREAMING CARGO.
FROM THE SHADOWS, A TERRIFIED ALLY RISES.
DORRO.
ABEL! Ah, MAN, YOU'RE ALIVE! AFTER THE REDOUBT WAS HIT, I THOUGHT THE FRIGGING NIGHTCRAWLERS GOT YOU FOR SURE!
WE HAD TO BUG OUT OF THE OLD CHURCH. DAEMONS SWOOPED IN BY THE DOZENS. TOOK THE KIDS FIRST. CHEWED THE REST DOWN TO THE BONE.
THE SURVIVORS. WHERE ARE THEY?
COME ON, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE. Ah, MAN, ARE THEY EVER GONNA BE GLAD TO SEE YOU.
YOU'RE OKAY, RIGHT?
FINE.


ASH. SULFUR. DEATH.
BUNE STANDS HIGH ATOP A SCARRED RIDGE WATCHING ABEL AND DORRO MOVE THROUGH A DISTANT FIELD OF CROSSES.
NAVKIES, THE RESTLESS SOULS OF MURDERED CHILDREN, RISE AND AWAIT THE ORDERS OF THEIR NEW MASTER.
FOLLOW THEM, CHILDREN. THE DARKLIGHT WILL LEAD YOU LIKE A BEACON.
BUNE PULLS BACK HIS HOOD--REVEALS A GHASTLY ENTROPIC SKULL. ACROSS HIS RUNNELED COUNTENANCE, TINY NANO-TECHMITES SCURRY TO REPAIR AND RESHAPE FLAKING AND ROTTING EPIDERMIS.
FOLLOW ITS BLACK GLOW TO THE SLAYGROUND.

SPAWN TRUDGES THROUGH A BLOOD-SOAKED KILLING FIELD IN THE HEART OF APOCALYPTIC WARFARE. HUMANS AND NIGHTMARES. BLOOD AND BONES. FLAMES AND FLESH. THE WORLD BURNS IN ITS DARK DOWNWARD SPIRAL.
MERCILESS.
GODLESS.
DEMON! GOT SOMETHIN' FOR YA! LI'L TASTE'A HOME!
FWOOSH!
LET'S SEND THIS SOULLESS DEVIL-PUKE BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM!
WANNA PIECE OF ME, SOLDIER BOY?

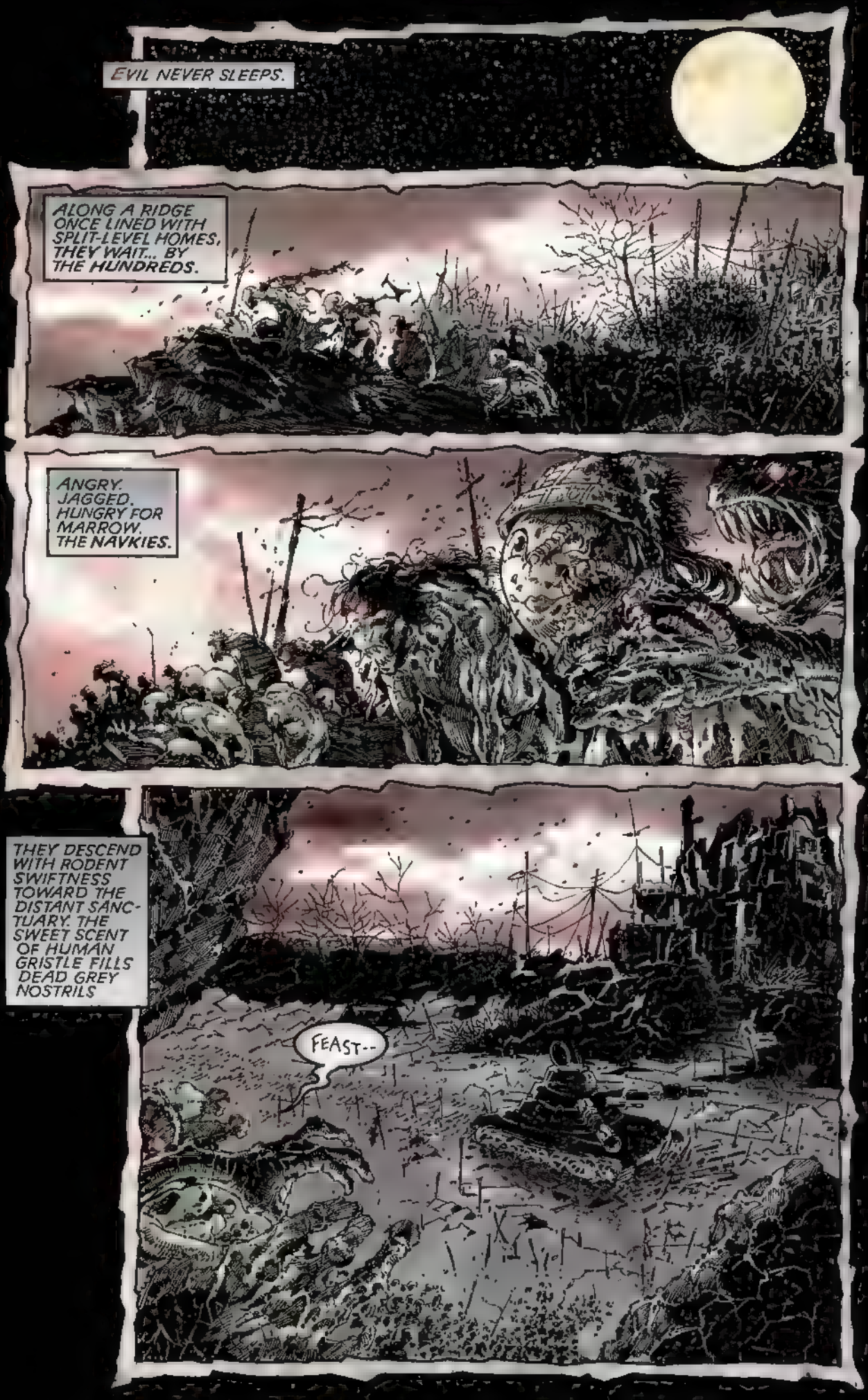
HERE! TAKE ALL YOU CAN HANDLE!
DON'T BE SHY NOW. PLENTY TO GO 'ROUND!
NNNA!
GWAH!!
PSI-BARB TENDRIL CHAINS REND FLESH WITH HEINOUS EASE, SENDING FLASHES OF SPAWN'S SEARING RAGE DEEP INTO THE SOLDIERS' DYING SOULS.
Get them, Danny. The liars, abusers, betrayers. Do 'em all like cordwood. Heeeheeee!
This is your time, Danny. Go on! Disk it out!
Oh YEAH! PAYBACK'S A BITCH, AIN'T IT?!
IT COMES SO EASILY.
AHHAHAHA!
NICE WORK. HAPPY WORK!
SCREEEEE

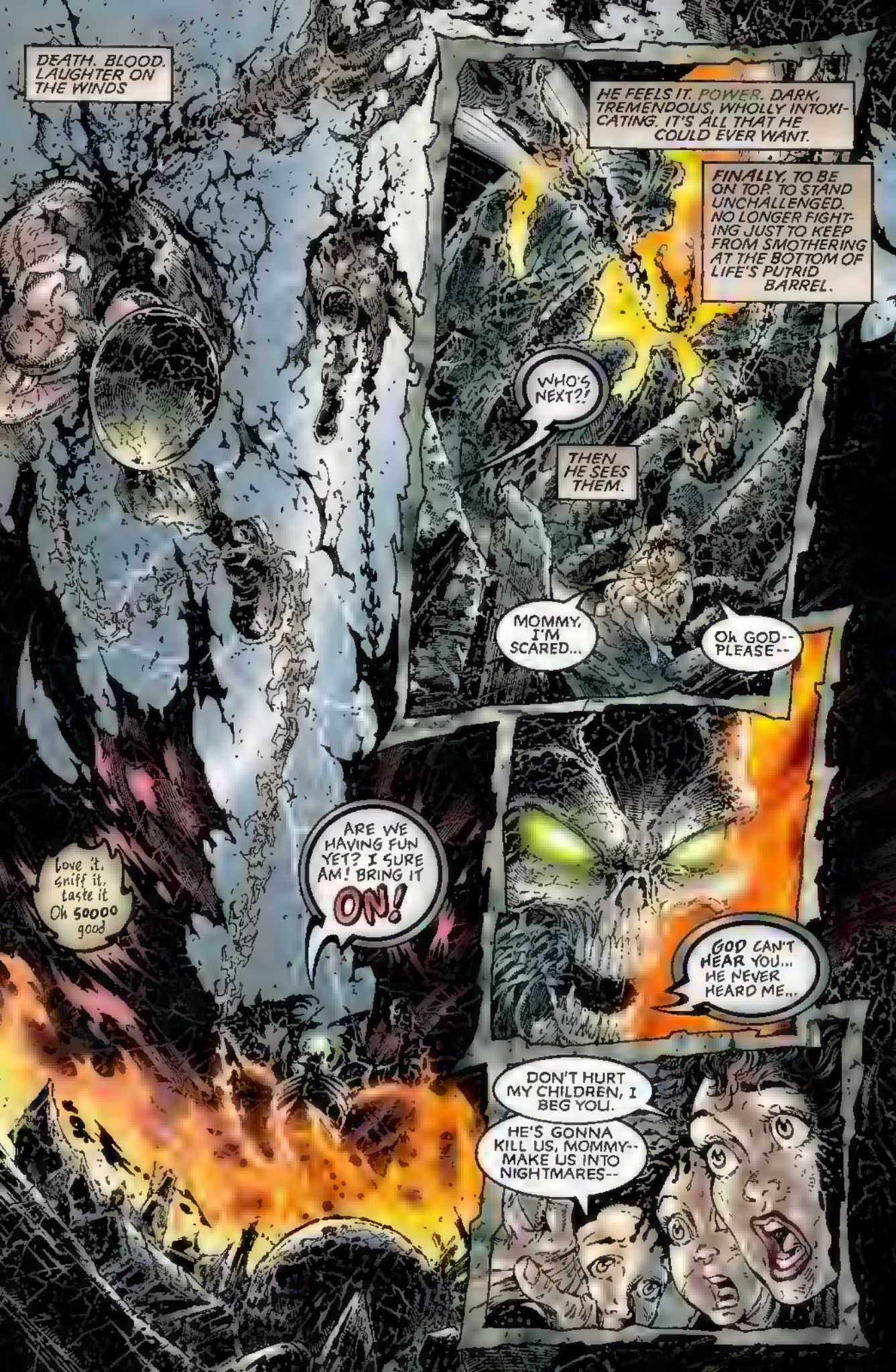

HOURS. DAYS. TIME BLEEDS TOGETHER.
A SANCTUARY LINED WITH CROSSES TO FEND OFF THE DAMNED. BATTERED HUMAN SOLDIERS DRIFT INTO VIEW.
DON'T SHOOT, WE'RE HUMAN.
APC, INTACT. SHOULD COME IN HANDY.
IT'S YOURS FOR SOME FOOD AND WATER.
THE SEWAGE-CLOGGED BOWELS OF A FORMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
YOU'RE WELCOME TO WHAT WE CAN SPARE. IT AIN'T MUCH.
MADRID THINKS OF SCHOOL PLAYS, GYM CLASS, RECESS, ALL THE THINGS MATT WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE. SHE SWALLOWS COLD GUILT.

BODIES ARE PILED HIGH IN FORMER CLASSROOMS TURNED MAKE-SHIFT MORGUES. BODIES PRAYED OVER BY THE GRIEF-STRICKEN.
WILL IT EVER BE OVER, MAN?
I DON'T KNOW...
SIV AND FLECHETTE. SHE LIVES IN THE SUBURBS OF PSYCHO-SIS. HE WALTZES WITH A DANCE PARTNER CALLED PAIN. ONLY I-V MED IMPLANTS KEEP HIM FROM SCREAMING TO DEATH.
MORE MEAT FOR THE GRINDER.
SHE LOOKS TOUGH ENOUGH.
DO UNTO OTHERS
FLECHETTE, SIV, GET THESE TWO SOME FOOD AND WATER.
I AIN'T NO WELCOMING COMMITTEE.
JUST DO IT THEN TAKE 'EM TO MORTEMEURE.

THIS AUDITOURIUM ONCE TEEMED WITH JOYFUL, SCREECHING GRADE-SCHOOLERS. ITS LAST FUNCTION IN THE REAL WORLD WAS A PERFORMANCE OF 'OLIVER TWIST'. JUST AFTER THE SECOND CURTAIN CALL, THE SUN TURNED BLACK AS SACK-CLOTH, AND THE MOON BECAME AS BLOOD.
ALONE NOW, ON THE STAGE, MORTEMEURE PRAYS FOR THE SOUL OF HUMANITY.
MORTEMEURE, WE HAVE TWO NEW ARRIVALS.
EXCELLENT, WE ALWAYS--
NOO!
AS THE ENCLAVE'S SPIRITUAL LEADER, MORTEMEURE HAS STARED DEEPLY INTO THE ABYSS AND WALKED THE RAZOR'S EDGE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
FELT THE ICY BREATH OF HELL'S DEMENTED RULERS ON HIS WRINKLED NAPE-- AND SURVIVED.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE STILL HAS HOPE, AND WEARS HIS FAITH LIKE FLEXISTEEL ARMOR.
HE KNOWS YOU! HE KNOWS YOU!
THE BOY!
HE SEES HIMSELF IN YOU!
YOU ARE HIS MIRROR!
YOU ARE HIS BLOOD!

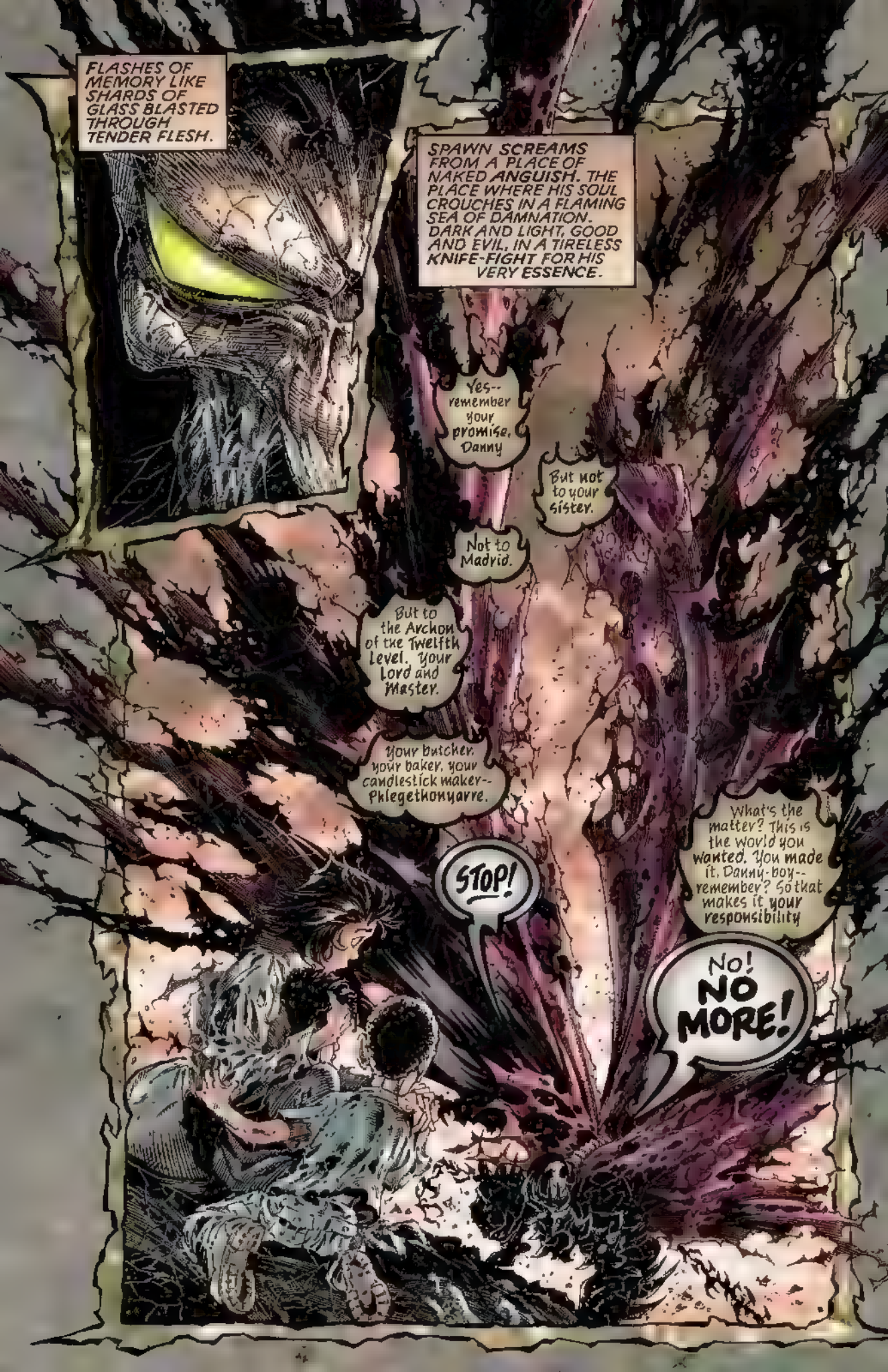
KILL THEM BOTH!
WSH
KLAK
BOTH DRAW WEAPONS LIGHTNING FAST.
BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER DO.
TRY ME.
PUT DOWN YOUR GUNS. NOW.
JEEZ-- OUTSIDE AIN'T BAD ENOUGH?
THE WOMAN AND THE BOY ARE WELCOME HERE.
THANK YOU.
ONLY MATTHEW SEES THE LOCUST ALIGHT IN SHADOW ON ABEL'S NECK.


EVIL NEVER SLEEPS.
ALONG A RIDGE ONCE LINED WITH SPLIT-LEVEL HOMES, THEY WAIT... BY THE HUNDREDS.
ANGRY. JAGGED. HUNGRY FOR MARROW. THE NAVKIES.
THEY DESCEND WITH RODENT SWIFTNESS TOWARD THE DISTANT SANCTUARY. THE SWEET SCENT OF HUMAN GRISTLE FILLS DEAD GREY NOSTRILS
FEAST--

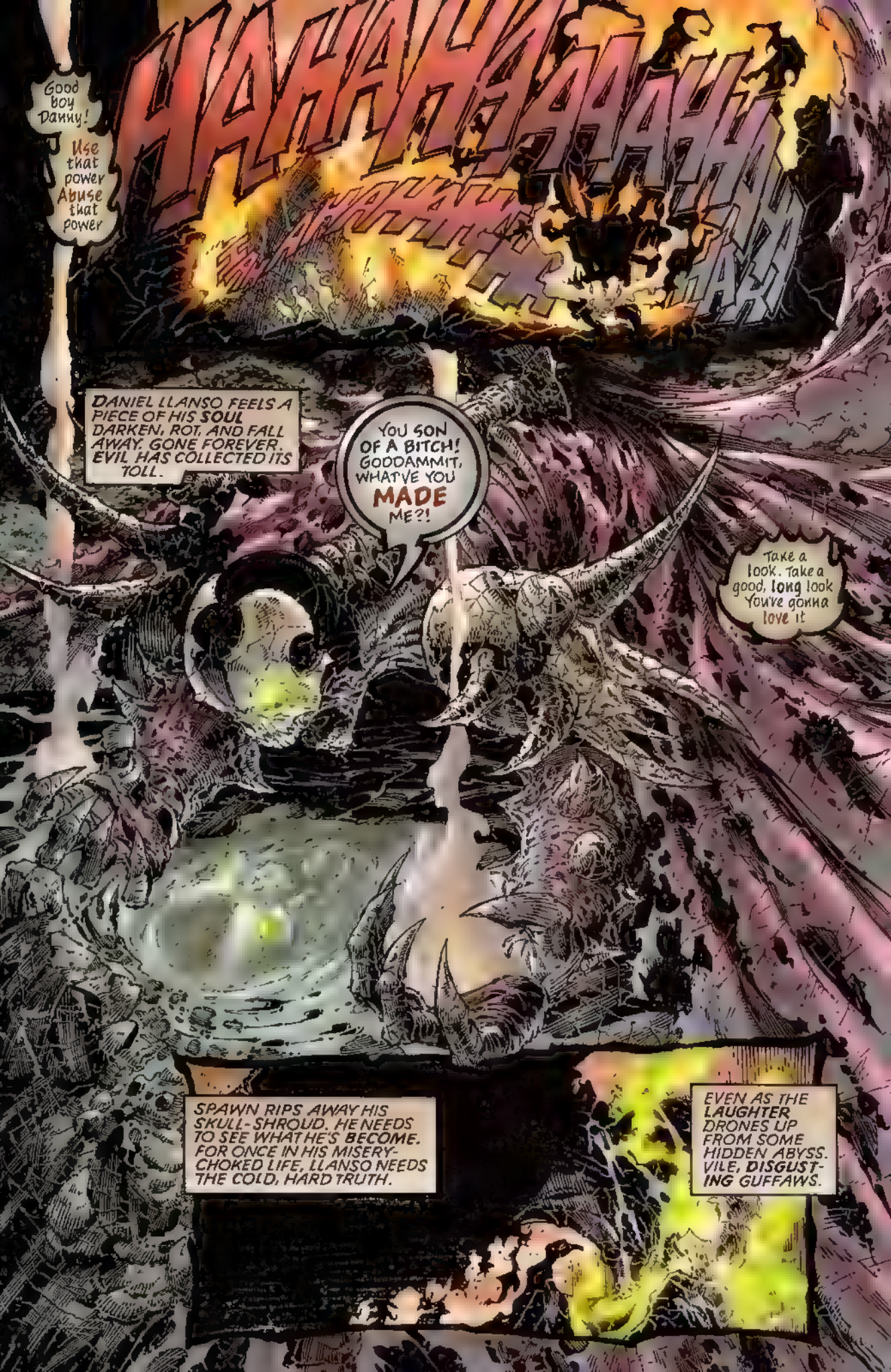

DEATH. BLOOD. LAUGHTER ON THE WINDS
HE FEELS IT. POWER. DARK, TREMENDOUS, WHOLLY INTOXICATING. IT'S ALL THAT HE COULD EVER WANT.
FINALLY, TO BE ON TOP. TO STAND UNCHALLENGED. NO LONGER FIGHTING JUST TO KEEP FROM SMOTHERING AT THE BOTTOM OF LIFE'S PUTRID BARREL.
WHO'S NEXT?!
THEN HE SEES THEM.
MOMMY, I'M SCARED...
Oh GOD-- PLEASE--
ARE WE HAVING FUN YET? I SURE AM! BRING IT ON!
love it, sniff it, taste it Oh soooo good
GOD CAN'T HEAR YOU... HE NEVER HEARD ME...
DON'T HURT MY CHILDREN, I BEG YOU.
HE'S GONNA KILL US, MOMMY-- MAKE US INTO NIGHTMARES--

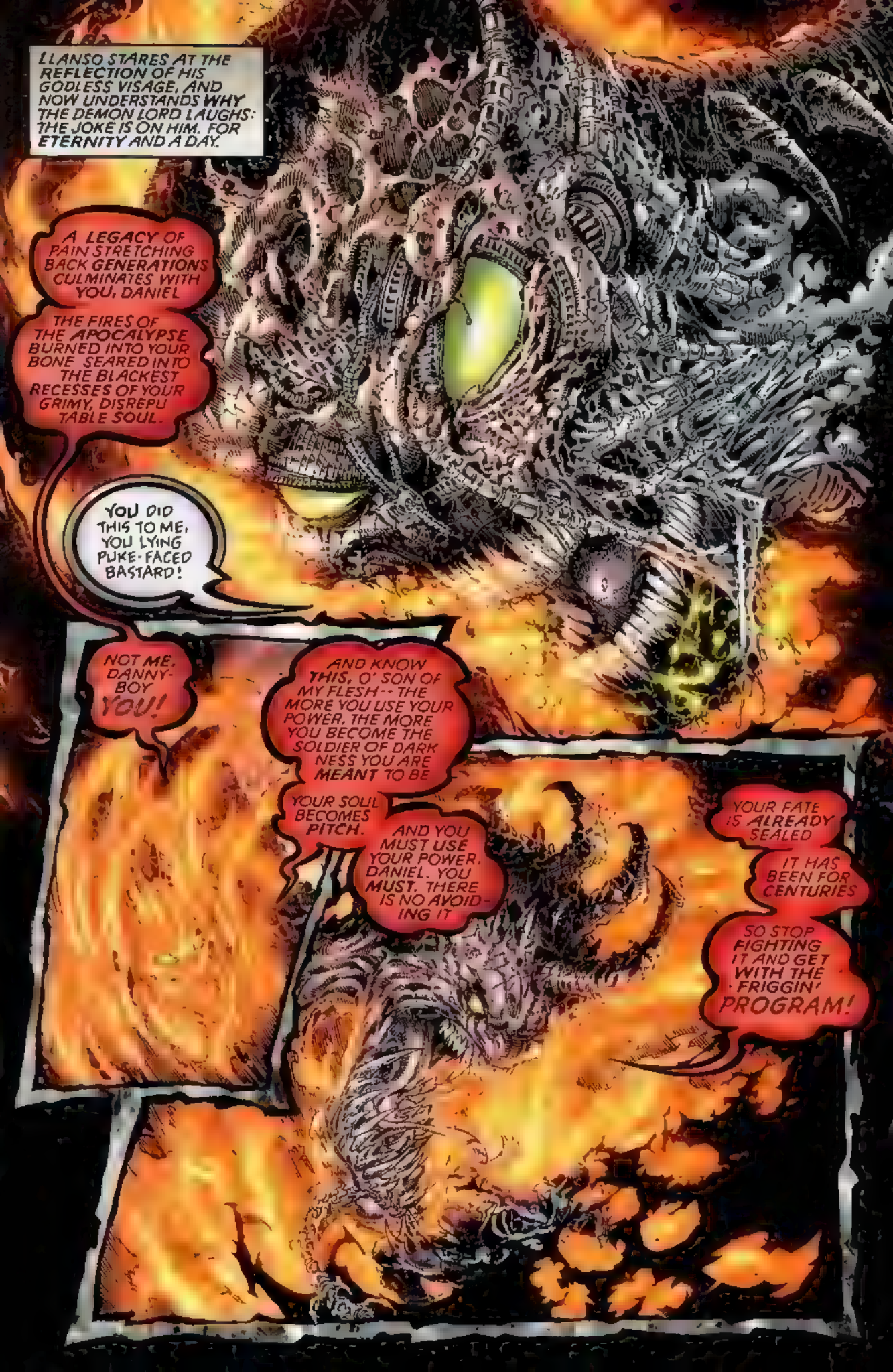
LLANSO SHUDDERS. REMEMBERS ANOTHER TIME, WHEN A SCARED WOMAN PROTECTED HER TWO SMALL CHILDREN FROM A MONSTER.
USED HER BRUISED FLESH TO SHIELD HER SON DANNY--
--AND DAUGHTER MADRID.
AFTER THE MONSTER'S DEATH, THE DRONECOPS CAME FOR HIM. DANNY LLANSO, AGE TEN. SHACKLED, CONVICTED, BRANDED FOR LIFE.
PLEASE, GIVE US A MOMENT.
NO PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE PRISONER.

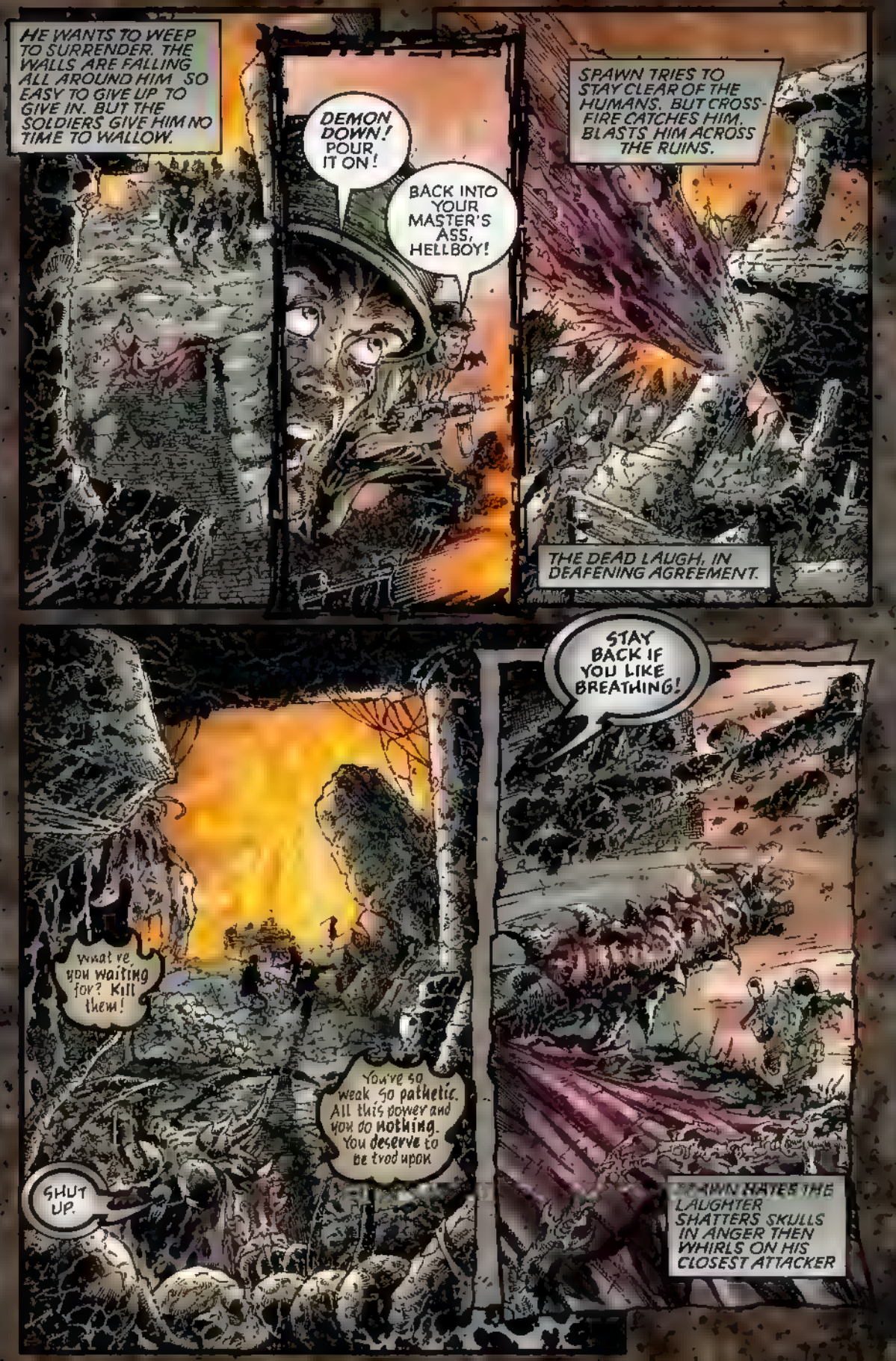
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP ON YOU, DANNY YOU HAD NO CHOICE.
TIME'S UP. INTO THE SHUTTLE, MAGGOT
PROMISE ME, DANNY, THAT YOU WON'T GIVE UP ON YOURSELF. NOT EVER
DON'T GIVE UP, OKAY? PROMISE!
DANNY...
I PROMISE


FLASHES OF MEMORY LIKE SHARDS OF GLASS BLASTED THROUGH TENDER FLESH.
SPAWN SCREAMS FROM A PLACE OF NAKED ANGUISH. THE PLACE WHERE HIS SOUL CROUCHES IN A FLAMING SEA OF DAMNATION. DARK AND LIGHT, GOOD AND EVIL, IN A TIRELESS KNIFE-FIGHT FOR HIS VERY ESSENCE.
Yes-- remember your promise, Danny
But not to your sister.
Not to Madrid.
But to the Archon of the Twelfth Level. Your Lord and Master.
Your butcher, your baker, your candlestick maker-- Phlegethonyarre.
STOP!
What's the matter? This is the world you wanted. You made it, Danny-boy-- remember? So that makes it your responsibility
No! NO MORE!

MORE DEATH COMES.
THE NIGHT-MARES LOOSE A BLINDING 'LECTRO BURST.
HE ABSORBS AN AGONIZING BARRAGE OF PULSE ENERGY. ENOUGH TO FUSE AND VAPORIZE THE BONES OF A DOZEN MEN.
SPAWN DIVES INTO THE LINE OF FIRE. DOESN'T HEAR HIS OWN PAINED CRIES.
STAY AWAY!
THE NECRO-ENERGY RISES FROM HIS DEPTHS ON A TIDE OF RAGE, PAIN AND INSTINCT. SURGES FORTH IN A WAVE OF PURE DARK-LIGHT FORCE THAT SHATTERS AND DESTROYS ALL THINGS
PROMISED HER...
HE FEELS IT NOW. WELLING UP. THE POWER. SO SEDUCTIVE.


HAHAHAAAAHAHAHAAAA
Good boy Danny! Use that power Abuse that power
DANIEL LLANSO FEELS A PIECE OF HIS SOUL DARKEN, ROT, AND FALL AWAY. GONE FOREVER. EVIL HAS COLLECTED ITS TOLL.
YOU SON OF A BITCH! GODDAMMIT, WHAT'VE YOU MADE ME?!
Take a look. Take a good, long look You've gonna love it
SPAWN RIPS AWAY HIS SKULL-SHROUD. HE NEEDS TO SEE WHAT HE'S BECOME. FOR ONCE IN HIS MISERY-CHOKED LIFE, LLANSO NEEDS THE COLD, HARD TRUTH.
EVEN AS THE LAUGHTER DRONES UP FROM SOME HIDDEN ABYSS. VILE, DISGUSTING GUFFAWS.


LLANSO STARES AT THE REFLECTION OF HIS GODLESS VISAGE, AND NOW UNDERSTANDS WHY THE DEMON LORD LAUGHS: THE JOKE IS ON HIM. FOR ETERNITY AND A DAY.
A LEGACY OF PAIN STRETCHING BACK GENERATIONS CULMINATES WITH YOU, DANIEL
THE FIRES OF THE APOCALYPSE BURNED INTO YOUR BONE SEARED INTO THE BLACKEST RECESSES OF YOUR GRIMY, DISREPU TABLE SOUL.
YOU DID THIS TO ME, YOU LYING PUKE-FACED BASTARD!
NOT ME, DANNY-BOY YOU!
AND KNOW THIS, O' SON OF MY FLESH -- THE MORE YOU USE YOUR POWER, THE MORE YOU BECOME THE SOLDIER OF DARK NESS YOU ARE MEANT TO BE
YOUR SOUL BECOMES PITCH.
AND YOU MUST USE YOUR POWER, DANIEL. YOU MUST. THERE IS NO AVOID-ING IT
YOUR FATE IS ALREADY SEALED
IT HAS BEEN FOR CENTURIES
SO STOP FIGHTING IT AND GET WITH THE FRIGGIN' PROGRAM!


HE WANTS TO WEEP TO SURRENDER. THE WALLS ARE FALLING ALL AROUND HIM. SO EASY TO GIVE UP TO GIVE IN. BUT THE SOLDIERS GIVE HIM NO TIME TO WALLOW.
DEMON DOWN! POUR IT ON!
BACK INTO YOUR MASTER'S ASS, HELLBOY!
SPAWN TRIES TO STAY CLEAR OF THE HUMANS. BUT CROSS-FIRE CATCHES HIM, BLASTS HIM ACROSS THE RUINS.
THE DEAD LAUGH, IN DEAFENING AGREEMENT.
STAY BACK IF YOU LIKE BREATHING!
What're you waiting for? Kill them!
You're so weak. So pathetic. All this power and you do nothing. You deserve to be trod upon
SHUT UP.
SPAWN HATES THE LAUGHTER SHATTERS SKULLS IN ANGER THEN WHIRLS ON HIS CLOSEST ATTACKER

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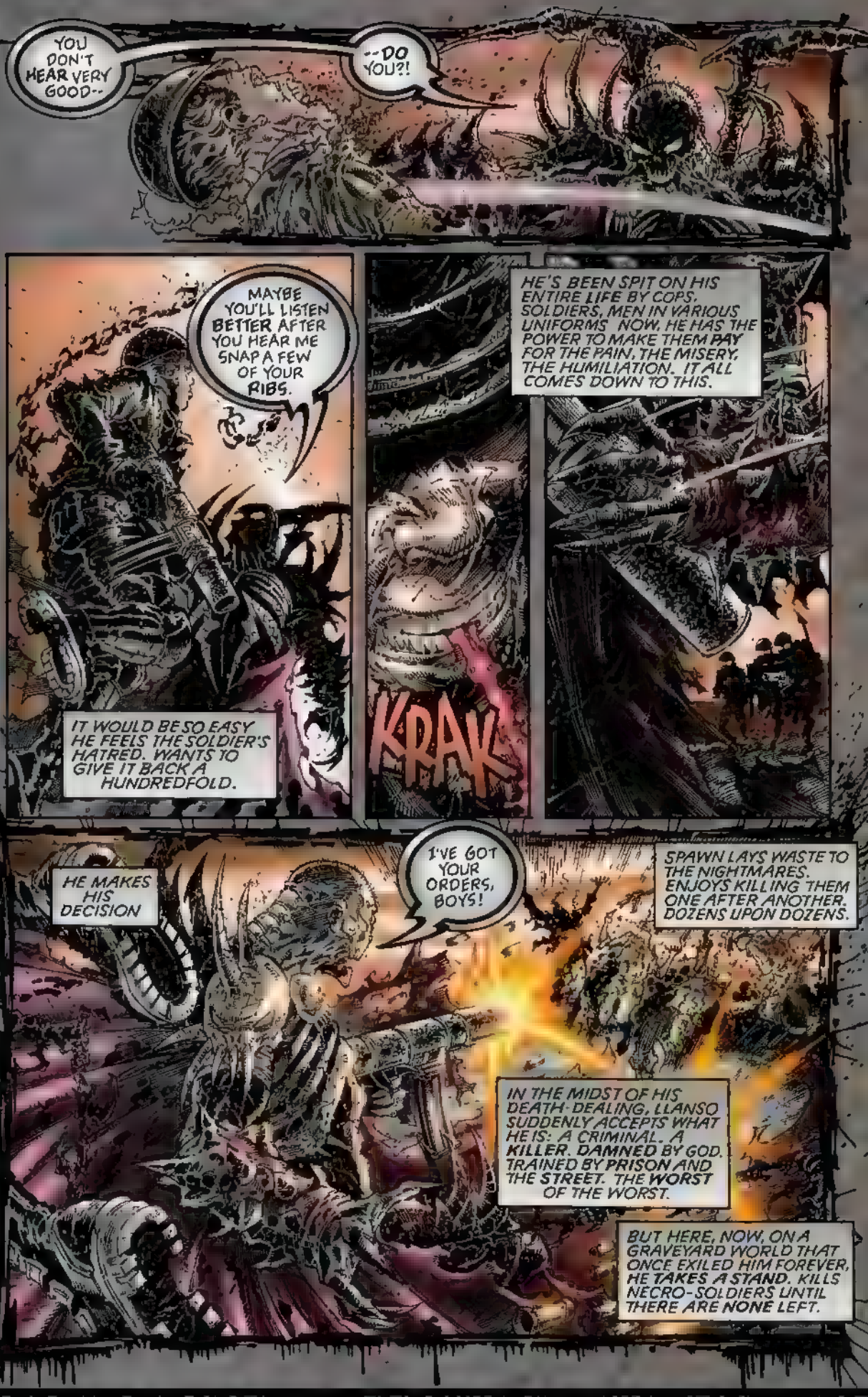
YOU DON'T HEAR VERY GOOD--
--DO YOU?!
MAYBE YOU'LL LISTEN BETTER AFTER YOU HEAR ME SNAP A FEW OF YOUR RIBS.
IT WOULD BE SO EASY HE FEELS THE SOLDIER'S HATRED. WANTS TO GIVE IT BACK A HUNDREDFOLD.
HE'S BEEN SPIT ON HIS ENTIRE LIFE BY COPS, SOLDIERS, MEN IN VARIOUS UNIFORMS NOW, HE HAS THE POWER TO MAKE THEM PAY FOR THE PAIN, THE MISERY, THE HUMILIATION. IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS.
KRAK
HE MAKES HIS DECISION
I'VE GOT YOUR ORDERS, BOYS!
SPAWN LAYS WASTE TO THE NIGHTMARES. ENJOYS KILLING THEM ONE AFTER ANOTHER. DOZENS UPON DOZENS.
IN THE MIDST OF HIS DEATH-DEALING, LLANSO SUDDENLY ACCEPTS WHAT HE IS: A CRIMINAL. A KILLER. DAMNED BY GOD. TRAINED BY PRISON AND THE STREET. THE WORST OF THE WORST.
BUT HERE, NOW, ON A GRAVEYARD WORLD THAT ONCE EXILED HIM FOREVER, HE TAKES A STAND. KILLS NECRO-SOLDIERS UNTIL THERE ARE NONE LEFT.

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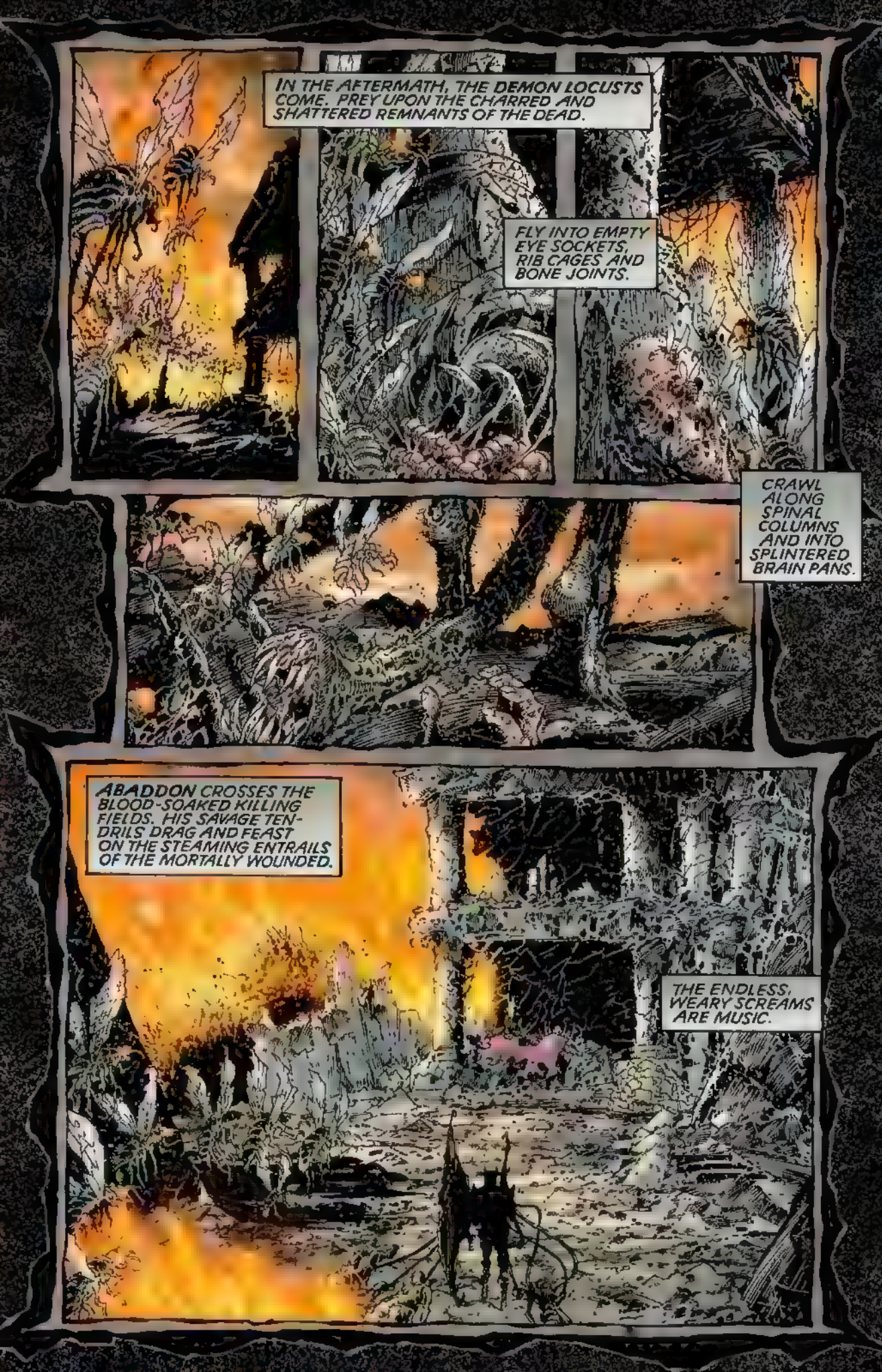
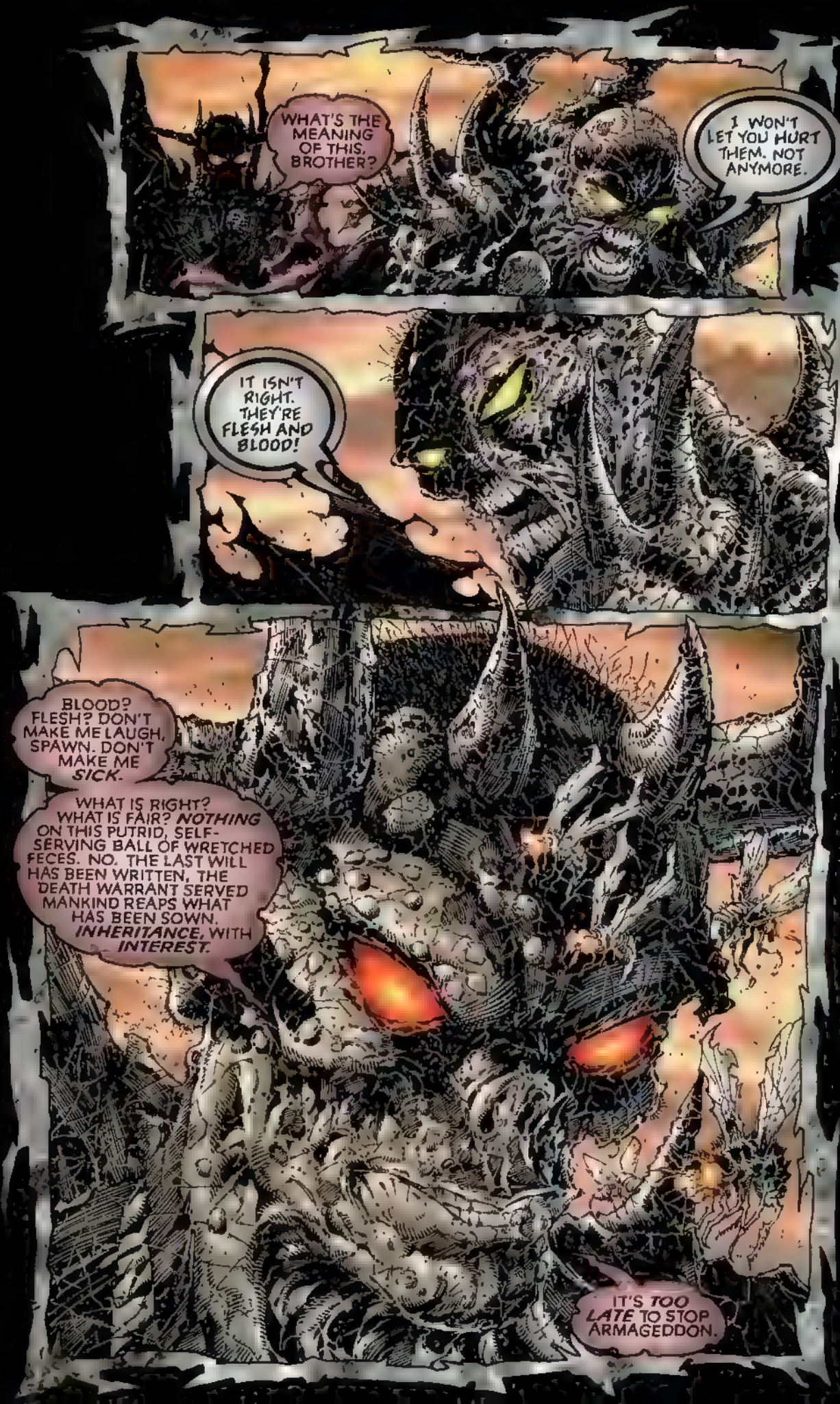

IN THE AFTERMATH, THE DEMON LOCUSTS COME. PREY UPON THE CHARRED AND SHATTERED REMNANTS OF THE DEAD.
FLY INTO EMPTY EYE SOCKETS, RIB CAGES AND BONE JOINTS.
CRAWL ALONG SPINAL COLUMNS AND INTO SPLINTERED BRAIN PANS.
ABADDON CROSSES THE BLOOD-SOAKED KILLING FIELDS. HIS SAVAGE TENDRILS DRAG AND FEAST ON THE STEAMING ENTRAILS OF THE MORTALLY WOUNDED.
THE ENDLESS, WEARY SCREAMS ARE MUSIC.


WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, BROTHER?
I WON'T LET YOU HURT THEM. NOT ANYMORE.
IT ISN'T RIGHT. THEY'RE FLESH AND BLOOD!
BLOOD? FLESH? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, SPAWN. DON'T MAKE ME *SICK*.
WHAT IS RIGHT? WHAT IS FAIR? *NOTHING* ON THIS PUTRID, SELF-SERVING BALL OF WRETCHED FECES. NO. THE LAST WILL HAS BEEN WRITTEN, THE DEATH WARRANT SERVED MANKIND REAPS WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN. *INHERITANCE*, WITH *INTEREST*.
IT'S *TOO LATE* TO STOP ARMAGEDDON.

AND WITH THAT, NEW NIGHTMARES RISE FROM THE KILLING FIELDS THE BODIES OF THE SLAUGHTERED NOW THE SERVANTS OF DARKNESS. INFECTED BY THE DEMON LOCUSTS. FAITHFUL SOLDIERS READY TO CONTINUE WAGING HELL'S WAR ON EARTH.
ABADDON'S LAUGHTER ECHOES OFF THE BONES OF THE FRESHLY RISEN.
YOU CAN'T SAVE HUMANITY, SPAWN. ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN SAVE MADRID AND HER BASTARD SON.
THE ANTI-POPE HAS ALREADY SENT THEIR PUNISHMENT.

THE END HAS BEGUN.
SPAWN RACES THROUGH THE RUINS IN ICY PANIC. CHASED BY ABADDON'S LAUGHTER.
AFRAID THAT HE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE.
SPAWN IS ON HIS WAY, LORD THE FIRST TEST HAS BEGUN.
EXCELLENT. THIS WILL SET THE PACE FOR HIS DESTINY
ONCE LLANSO HAS KILLED HIS SISTER AND HER VILE ISSUE, THE REAL GAME CAN BEGIN

# IT'S SPAWN®

## NIGHT IN DETROIT!

WITH SPECIAL GUEST-

## TODD MCFARLANE!

**December 7 at The Compuware Sports Arena, Detroit, Michigan**

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**4p.m.-6:30p.m.** Todd McFarlane autograph signing

**5p.m.** Exhibition Game between the Spawn Pee Wee-A Hockey Team and the Tecumesh Eagles Pee Wee-A Hockey Team.

**7:30p.m.** Todd McFarlane drops the puck to start the action as the Detroit Whalers go head-to-head with the Ottawa 67's.

ALSO APPEARING:
Al Simmons and the Spawnmobile!

Spawn prizes galore for ticket holders and non-ticket holders alike!

TICKET information call 313-453-8400
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# CURSE WORDS™

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**Thanks to all of you who entered our contest to name this letters page. We chose a name that several people suggested. But, as we stated in the rules to name this column, we chose the winner by the earliest post marked letter. Congratulations to Antwan Jacobs of Ft. Drum, New York!**

Dear Mr. McFarlane

Just picked up a copy of *Curse of the Spawn* today and must say that I was truly impressed. Dwayne Turner and Danny Miki do a great job of giving the book a horror type feel. In my opinion this book portrays Spawn just as it should be: Gruesome and bloody.

I also would like to say that Greg Capullo has improved greatly since issue #16. His style and the detail in his art has changed for the better. A lot of people have written in stating that Greg "sucks" but I strongly disagree. At first I too was upset that you were not going to continue drawing *Spawn* and I think your fans took out their frustration on Greg and never really gave him a chance. You are lucky to have such a talented artist as Greg Capullo.

Here are some questions:

1. What other toys are slated for release along with the Ilanso Spawn figure?
2. Will you ever do a Viking Spawn run in this series of books?
3. Do you ever plan on coming to Kentucky to do an autograph session or show?

I'm really excited about the Spawn movie. I was afraid that Spawn might be a big joke like *The Fantastic Four* flick but then I read that it was going to be done by New Line Cinemas. They always seem to turn out good movies.

I would also like to commend you on your toys. They are great. It is hard to believe how much detail there is in each one. I have got nearly 200 Spawn figures and love every one. My friends and family say that I am addicted to them and it is true. I would rather collect them than eat. Last week my car insurance was canceled because I took my pay check and bought a case of your figures. Oh well, I can walk as long as I have my toys. MUST HAVE TOYS!!! Keep up the great work.

Your number one guy
Steven Gleason
Somerset, Kentucky

**The intent from the beginning was always that this book would be the darker side of the Spawn legend; to actually show the ramifications of those touched by the curse or lived in the shadow of it. I agree that Danny Miki and Dwayne Turner are doing a great job of complimenting Alan McElroy's script to give it that dark mood and atmosphere that will play a large part in this book even when we switch gears a bit and do stories on Sam and Twitch, Jason Wynn or Tony Twist. I think it makes a telling observation on some of the early commentaries of Greg Capullo's work that the readers animosity was really toward my leaving and not towards Greg's talent capabilities. With me out of the way, he became an easy target. I have to thank him for taking so many bullets that were intended for me. Other than the Daniel Ilanso toy figure, I don't have any other figures planned right now, but keep your sensors on and be prepared for anything at anytime. Unfortunately, I won't be in the Kentucky area in the near future but hope to eventually work my way to a lot of different places I've never been before. The movie will be a big deal both for us and New Line Cinema. By the time you read this letter column, all principal photography will be finished with only the special effects and post production work to be done. We'll show you some stuff later on as we're allowed to.**

**It's probably not such a good idea to not have insurance on your car 'cause then you won't be able to drive to all the stores to purchase the toys. So you're not doing yourself or me any favors by not being able to buy the toys. So make sure you get some insured wheels under your butt. Hope all is to your liking and take care.**

Dear Curse of the Spawn

I know that you are going to get a flood of letters for this the best comic book to come out since I have been collecting (the past two years). I never thought that any comic would even come close to as good as *Spawn* is especially if Todd isn't writing it, but *Curse of the Spawn* has succeeded in performing the impossible. I want to say what a wonderful job Alan is doing and if he wrote the *Spawn* movie it will be the best movie of its kind since the original Batman movie. I can't wait till it comes out. Congratulations on another great book.

Nick Frumkin
Los Angeles, CA

**Nick, I usually like to stay away from gushy letters 'cause I think guys cussing at me and calling me names is cooler. But you did make a comment there that I'd like to address. Having been on set of the Spawn movie several times and even making a cameo appearance, the story and the visuals we're trying to present in the Spawn movie will not be like those in the *Batman* flick. The Batman franchise, in every corner except the comic books, seems like it has become really nice and soft which is not something I aspire to do with my character. Given the fact that Alan McElroy had to keep the script within the realm of a PG-13 rating, I think we've come up with a visual world that will come across as far more sci fi than comic bookish. It was this flavor that drew me to Alan's writing in the first place and I wanted to give him a forum where he could let his twisted sense of creepiness run wild. Ultimately, after seeing the Spawn movie, you'll think that Batman is just a big pussy and I say that in terms of the movie and not the comic book. Some of the styling Danny Miki and Dwayne Turner have will also be evident in terms of the same style the movie will have. So hang on to your hats and enjoy the ride that Mr. McElroy and Company are about to give you in this book.**

Dear *CURSE OF THE SPAWN*

Re: Issue #1 Dark Future

Congratulations! I thoroughly enjoyed the dark feel of this book, both through the fabulous writing by Alan and wonderful pencilling by Dwayne. Combined by the might of Danny's inks and definitely heightened by the sheer brilliance of the coloring by Todd and Roy, this first issue has guaranteed that at least one person will be back for #2! Though I dare say that given the superb quality of this debut, there will be great demand for this book.

This is the first time I have written to an Image book, though I have been a faithful *Spawn* reader since issue #1. I was relieved and gratified to note that this was in no way related to the regular series.

You have already raised some questions as to the past of this Spawn, namely Daniel Ilanso and I hope that these will be answered quickly. What had he done? The torture on the Hellspawn's skull is evident on the last page and we are able to gain a feeling of great loss through the detail. I think the rendering of this Spawn is good. To be quite frank, I think that the Al Simmons Spawn's new face leaves a lot to be desired and that Todd should have left it as it was. Though I do suppose that it creates a reason for a new toy.

In any case, once again, well done and I look forward to being on hand to see the development of this new series.

PS Todd: is there any chance of you teaming up with Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti to put out an *Ash* figure? Just thought I would ask.

Tory Favro
Wangwarrin, Victoria
Australia

**There may come a day when I feel that there is a need for two Al Simmons' character books. But that's not here yet. One of the reasons why I think readers like Spawn and Al himself is because of the situations and the people he hangs around with, which is where this book serves its purpose. I'll be able to show story lines of characters in the regular series who normally wouldn't get a chance to shine on their own and develop them a bit further. They then become characters you care about and add a richness to the cast and crew that now surround Al Simmons. So besides showing Spawns throughout time, you'll also be getting a glimpse into a world of those people that help me with the regular series and how we make it the success that it is today. Joe and I have talked off and on about an *Ash* action figure for a long time. Anything is possible.**

Dear C.O.T.S. Crew

I have to say that Curse of the Spawn #1 was one of the best comics I have ever read in a while. I have been a fan of Spawn for a while but have never kept up with getting each issue. This is a habit that I intend to break with this series.

The artwork was phenomenal. Dwayne Turner and Danny Miki are one of the best one-two punches I've seen in a while and Alan's story is superb. I do have a few questions though:

1. This story takes place in the future, but are any of Spawn's old enemies going to appear (Violator?) or are new enemies going to arise?
2. Is the old Spawn going to meet the new Hellspawn?
3. How can I subscribe to this comic?

Thanks again,
Dane Carlson
Burlington, IA

**At present I don't have a subscription policy. You'll need to grab your comics from the newsstand, some of the places that provide subscriptions through the mail or your local comic shop. As for your question whether you're going to see some continuity between the regular series and the Curse book - the story is not intended to be that way. I'm not a big fan of paradox stories but if the proper story line were placed in front of me that would make for some entertaining reading, I would consider it. The obvious choice of the Violator chasing the Spawns throughout time is a natural but maybe in a different form, with a different purpose as to what he's trying to accomplish. Anything is possible with me and these two titles as long as it makes sense, at least in comic book terms.**

Dear Spawn People

I went to my favorite comic book store today, just to look around and see what Jeff had. He had boxes of stuff scattered all over the place and stuff stacked on top of things. It's just a big mess sometimes when I go in there and it's hard to find anything. So, I looked around a bit and was deciding whether to give up or not when Jeremy offered to help me. I'm not real easy to help since I don't have a particular type. I either like it or don't. Well, he found some stuff. I have no particular guidelines except that I like to stick to image 'cause it's got enough of a variety of things coming out that I don't NEED to go looking anywhere else.

Well, he showed me your "Curse of the Spawn" book and I thought it looked pretty awesome. I'm glad you started another one. I didn't collect the other series because when I first saw it, it was on something like issue #17 and I prefer to start at the beginning so that I knew everything that's going on in the book.

I like what I see! "Spawn's" freaky! I went to a lot of churches when I was a kid and how they always talk about damnation and all that is a lot like this book. I always did find religion pretty weird. To believe in things that you can't see but just because of a fear of something that no one can prove is freaky. "Spawn" reminds me of Armageddon but "Spawn's" better than church 'cause you don't have to believe in it plus it's got really awesome pictures and a wild story. I think Dwayne Turner has become one of my favorite artists already.

I like all kinds of comics from fairy tales and up. *Curse of the Spawn* started me on a different category in horror. As long as it's got a good story and pictures that catch my eye, I'll check it out. Thanks for showing this girl something different.

PS: Is that cover of *Spawn the Impaler #2* I saw in the advertisement pages painted? It looks totally AWESOME! I like how the artist did the faces of the two women the best. Looks great Rob P!

Josephine Lux

**One of the elements that we've had running throughout our books is the old heaven and hell and earth triangle. Although it's been misinterpreted that I'm some kind of devil worshipper, the entire story line came from a very simple idea actually. It goes something like this: If I was going to create a good guy who battles a bunch of bad guys - who's the baddest guy of all? The answer is simple: the guy downstairs. The guy who's a slave to the biggest bad guy ever, but somehow is able to get past it all and wrest control of his own destiny would have to be the greatest good guy, wouldn't he? And so, from the idea of trying to create the greatest good guy, it only made sense that he be at odds with the greatest bad guy. It isn't anything much deeper than that in the thought process, but now that it's such a huge element in the character's persona, I have to come up with these weird kind of gothic and theological settings to try and make everything somewhat plausible. Now mix into this, the fact that when I was a kid, I used to like dark, scary monster things and you have this book that has all these things I thought were cool when I was a kid. Good clean fun. Nothing more, nothing less. And yes, the cover to the Impaler book was painted as was the entire mini-series. I'll be doing more painted books in the future, taking different kinds of styles and trying to fit them to the appropriate story.**

SHANNON

My Lady, You are my Strength
My love, You are my Light
This Heart
This Heart of Mine is Forever Yours for Life
To You I give my hand, In return You've given Me
Your beauty, Trust, Wisdom, Faith and most dearly,
Invaluable Friendship

Thus Unto You My Precious

SHANNON CRYSTAL TOMAS

I, Daniel Kei Miki,
Would be Blessed and Honored,
If Thou Wouldst Take My Hand In Marriage..

# END CAP

McFARLANE TOYS

## Answers You've Been Waiting For

*To start with, we'd like to thank everyone who has written in to the End Cap and Spawn Web site. While the sheer volume of mail makes most personal replies impossible, we will regularly answer as many questions as we can here.*

*Daniel in Australia, Richard in the U.K, and Liam stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovinia all asked us to explain why it's so hard to get our toys in other countries. While we have expanded our overseas markets, it's still mostly a matter of orders and customs. We don't have sales forces in every country and thus we rely on individual stores to request and order our toys from their respective distributors. Not all countries even HAVE licensed distributors. Then everything gets shipped overseas via ocean freight AND clear customs again. The toys are then trucked through other countries, paying any duty or taxes along the way, and finally delivered to the stores. Numerous people handle them with this process, and each wants a little money for their effort. Thus a figure that sells in the U.S. for $10 may arrive in Italy three months later for the equivalent of $40! Hopefully the McFarlane Toys Collector's Club (see the last End Cap column) will help some of our overseas fans.*

*Tom in New York (and many others) wanted to know which version of Angela/Tremor/Mendoza shipped first, and which were repaints (For those of you with computers, you can get a full listing of each toy's "Original vs. Repaint" version at our Web site: www.spawn.com). The rule of thumb is: the picture on the package back should be the original paint version.*

*That brings us to Ryan (with no return address), who wondered why the picture of Nuclear Spawn has yellow tubes, but the actual figure has black ones. You'll notice the same thing happened with Thresher: the picture on the box has a completely different head than the figure on the package back! This is because we have to print these up ahead of time, sometimes months in advance, while the toy may need to be changed at the last minute. So for the record, Thresher's old head didn't fit inside the helmet she wears, so she has a new 'do.*

*Eric from AOL sent a list of figures he'd like to see, and asked if we were planning on doing any figures based on the movie or cartoon. Since the cartoon looks so much like the comic in art styles, there's no real plans for any Spawn: The Animated Series line. Besides, hasn't that been done to death by other companies? But we DO have the rights to the likenesses of all the actors/actresses in the movie... Look for the first Spawn Movie line to be released shortly before the movie (and no, no hints on which figures will be made).*

*Spawn from Afterfive (you just gotta love someone with that e-mail name) wrote that he was worried about sending his credit card number over the Internet. There's nothing to be upset about, our site IS encrypted (very fitting for a Spawn site, eh?). It's just that we haven't REGISTERED the encryption with the official Netscape registration company, so they won't let us have the nice little logo showing on the bottom of your screen. It is safe, it is scrambled, and no one else can see what you're typing in (unless the cat looking over your shoulder is planning on embezzling his way to Aruba).*

*Brian in Illinois wanted to know why some figures have jointed knees/elbows/wrists, etc. but others are posable only in a few spots. Usually, if a figure is intricate in paint detail (like Cy-Gor or Overtkill II) they have less joints, while figures that are easier to paint (Battleclad Spawn, for example) will have more areas of articulation. This way the total cost of manufacturing each different figures is fairly constant.*

*So keep those letters/e-mails/photos/brownie recipes coming. Address your ground mail to:*

*Spawn EndCap*
*P.O. Box 27228*
*Tempe, AZ 85285-7228*

*Picture caption: Dennis from Ohio has obviously moved his living room furniture into aisle 7C of Toys R Us...*

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# IMAGE INFO

## blah, blah, blah 49

Hey. So let's get the pictures out of the way first off. The one on the left features the **Goat Gang.**" Everyone pictured works for TMP, in some capacity or other. They are, (left to right): Roy Young (colorist on Curse of Spawn), Rob Prior (artist on Spawn the Impaler), Todd Mac himself (God), Me (God Junior), Todd Broeker (colorist on Curse of Spawn), and Danny Miki (penciller on Curse of Spawn). The photo was taken during the San Diego Comic Con this past July.

The photo on the right has a very loud shirt wearing Me, standing next to Robert Smith, lead singer for the **Cure.** In case you missed my blah" last month, I saw the Cure here in Phoenix last month and they were great. Elektra Records had a little meet and greet with the band before the show and Robert and I got to talk hockey of all things. Notice the shirt Robert is modeling? For those of you not in the know, the very geometrical object is the official logo for the new **Phoenix NHL** team, the **Coyotes.** It was all a little odd talking hockey with a Brit,.. (Thanks again for the signed posters, guys.) Speaking of musically inclined hockey fans, Alice Cooper has seats ten rows in front of us at the Coyotes games. Good to see you there, Coop.

So I just got back from La-la-land this morning. I was out meeting with John McHugh, from **New Line Cinema Music**, to discuss the soundtrack for the Spawn feature. It looks like we'll be going with Atlantic Records for its release. Right now we are in the middle of drawing up a list of potential bands for the disc. And what an eclectic list it is, featuring everything from the Beastie Boys, to KISS, to the Tragically Hip, to Metallica. I'll keep you more informed as the whole project proceeds.

John and I went out to the set to see what we were filming that day. On the agenda was the third of five days of shooting the church rooftop" scene where Spawn and the Violator, (all ten million polygons worth!!!), battle it out. It definitely will be one of the top three most rememberable scenes from the flick. Guaranteed. We also went to dailies to see what was shot the day previous. Can't tell you exactly what, cause it will ruin the scene, but it looked really cool. Everyone is putting in 110% day after day to make this thing look killer. I hope you'll agree with that comment next August.

What else is new? Hmm. I'm heading over to the **WLE**, (World Licensing Exhibition), in Hong Kong later this month. We look to Asia as our number two market after this one, (US/Canada), in terms of spreading the gospel according to Spawn. From Hong Kong it's off to Osaka, Japan for a day to meet with a video game company about producing a stand up arcade game of lil' ole' Spawnie. Of course they will port the game over to the home platforms at some time thereafter. Mmmm... something tells me I'll be up to my ears in sushi. That's not a bad thing.

Over the course of the last month, we released the first and second **Curse of the Spawn** books. This is an ongoing monthly title, so make sure you pick them up and/or add them to your hold file. Fan response has been beyond favorable, even though the first issue printed a little dark and some of Danny Miki's great inks disappeared in the black vapor of the printed page. If you haven't checked them out yet, ask for them next time you are in the shop. They have been receiving a lot of great press in the media as well.

Also released last month was the **Spawn Bible** which features artwork by the beyond talented Greggory "Don't Call Me Guinea" Capullo. If you have any questions that need answers pertaining to any or all of the Spawn characters, this is the book for you! Learn how Terry and Al first met, where Al and Wanda first made puppy eyes at each other, why Twitch is called Twitch, etc. If you consider yourself a Spawn fan, you need this book. Besides, I messed up and printed a few thousand extra copies, so help me out will ya!?! If Todd finds out he'll take another 10 cents off of my hourly wage.

Check out the very first Spawn painted book, titled **Spawn the Impaler.** It should be out by the time you read this. The story and pencils are by Mike Grell and it features airbrush artwork by Rob Prior. All in all it's a nice package, running 32 pages in length for two-something bucks. As always, feel free to write us, or e-mail me at TDFitz@aol.com. See you soon.

-Terry Fitzgerald

p.s. Thanks BLB for enduring the hockey game with me. I know I must have embarrassed you, especially when I climbed the glass to fight that goon from the Ducks! (The movie on Sunday was really enjoyable by the way.)

# ATTENTION:

## WANNA JOB?

**Todd McFarlane Productions and the Spawn team are looking for a graphic designer/art director to join us here in the desert. The individual we seek is hip, motivated, watches MTV only for the videos, (but can't wait for MTV•2), prefers Green Day/Marilyn Manson/Nirvana over Kenny G/Yanni, has always been stifled creatively by the "system", "the boys upstairs", and/or "big brother", loves Pulp Fiction, hates Power Rangers, has an inner rage, and is basically waiting for someone to give them the opportunity of a lifetime to turn the graphics and/or creative world on its ass, In other words...**

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FULLY PAINTED BY
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